U.S. Embassy Mauritius and Seychelles

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Election-related Rallies and Events

August 1, 2016

The U.S. Department of State advises U.S. citizens residing in or traveling to Seychelles of the upcoming National Assembly elections scheduled to take place September 8-10. U.S. citizens should avoid political rallies and demonstrations during the election season.

Numerous public rallies and high-profile political events are expected to take place leading up to the election. These activities will lead to increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the period.

Previous elections in Seychelles have generally been peaceful; however, even peaceful demonstrations can quickly turn violent with little or no warning. You should avoid areas where rallies and demonstrations are taking place, and exercise caution in the vicinity of large gatherings.

Remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security. You should also be aware that in an emergency situation, mobile phone networks can be overwhelmed with call volume, making cellular communication difficult.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Seychelles <u>Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Consular Agency located on the second floor of the Oliaji Trade Center in Victoria, Mahe, at (248) 422-5256, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Email <u>usconsular@seychelles.net</u>. The after-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (230) 5253-3641 for the U.S. Embassy duty officer in Port Louis or (248) 251-5256 for the Seychelles consular agent.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.